

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-14. (*Cancelled*)

15. (*Currently Amended*) An aircraft assembly process comprising:

~~producing an assembly tool according to the method of any of claims 1 to 6, or providing an assembly tool according to any of claims 7 to 12; for~~
supporting an aircraft component comprising:

a) calculating a plurality of predetermined positions and corresponding orientations in space at which the aircraft component is to be supported;

b) designing a fixture frame configured to provide support for the aircraft component at predetermined locations of the frame associated with said predetermined positions;

c) constructing the fixture frame by selecting elongate members having predetermined lengths and connecting the elongate members together by means of releasable fastening means;

d) providing a plurality of pick-up devices, each having a receiving element for carrying the component, by selecting further elongate members

having predetermined lengths and connecting the further elongate members together and to the receiving element by means of clamping elements adapted selectively to allow at least three degrees of freedom of movement of each receiving element along at least two orthogonal axes and around at least one axis coplanar with the orthogonal axes;

e) securing the pick-up devices to the fixture frame at the predetermined locations; and

f) adjusting each receiving element along/around the orthogonal axes to align the receiving element with a respective predetermined position and orientation;

mounting at least one aircraft component on the assembly tool, and
performing an assembly operation on said at least one aircraft component.

16. *(Original)* An assembly process according to claim 15 further comprising reconfiguring the assembly tool on completion of the assembly operation, mounting at least one other aircraft component on the reconfigured assembly tool, and performing another assembly operation.

17. *(Original)* An assembly process according to claim 16 in which reconfiguring the assembly tool comprises adjusting the relative relationship of respective elongate

members of the fixture frame, and/or adjusting the locations of respective pick-up devices
in relation to the fixture frame.